

REMARKS**1.) Claim Amendments**

Applicants have cancelled claims 2 and 13-19, without prejudice. In addition, Applicants have amended (a) claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of the cancelled claim 2 therein, (b) claim 3, which now depends from claim 1 instead of the cancelled claim 2, and (c) claims 41 and 56 by defining "MAC". Furthermore, Applicants have added claims 64-69. More specifically, claim 64 includes the limitations of the cancelled claims 13-14 and claims 65-69 include limitations that are correspondingly similar to the cancelled claims 65-69. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-12 and 20-69 are pending in the present patent application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 41 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In response, Applicants have amended such claims 41 and 56 by identifying "MAC" stands for "Medium Access Control".

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,510 issued to Esteves et al. (hereinafter "Esteves"). Since claims 2-12 and 14-19 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, i.e., independent claim 1 and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the based claim and any intervening claim, Applicants respond to the rejection of claim 1 by canceling claim 2 and incorporating its limitations into claim 1. Regarding the rejection of claim 13, Applicants have cancelled claim 13 and its limitations together with the limitations of claim 14 can now be found in the newly added independent claim 64.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by and patentably distinguishable over Esteves.

Amendment - PAGE 20 of 21
EUS/J/P/04-5554

Attorney Docket No P12786-US1

CONCLUSION

Claims 1, 3-12 and 20-69 are presently standing in this patent application. In view of the foregoing remarks, each and every point raised in the Office Action mailed on June 22, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in this patent application to be in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner believe that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment - PAGE 21 of 21
EUS/J/P/04-5554